## SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX

# Jumps in Cross-Sectional Rank and Expected Returns: A Mixture Model 

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In this supplementary appendix we provide detailed results and further discussion, which is not presented in the paper due to constraints in the length of the manuscript.

We report the following six items:

1. Table S.1: Descriptive statistics of the weekly returns of the constituents of the SP500 index: Cross-sectional frequency distribution (500 firms) of the unconditional moments (time series mean, standard deviation, skewness, and kurtosis) and cross-sectional summary statistics of the unconditional jump from January 1, 1990 to December 27, 2000.
2. Table S.2: Estimation results of the duration model $f_{1}\left(J_{t} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1} ; \theta_{1}\right)$
3. Table S.3: Estimation results of the model for conditional returns $f_{2}\left(y_{t} \mid J_{t}, \mathcal{F}_{t-1} ; \theta_{2}\right)$
4. Section 4: Technical trading rules
5. Section 5: Wang's (2001) Monte Carlo method to compute VaR for the VCR-Mixture trading Rule
6. Section 6: White's (2000) reality check and Hansen's (2005) extension.

## 1 Table S.1: Descriptive statistics

In Table S.1, we summarize the unconditional moments (mean, standard deviation, skewness, and kurtosis) of all 500 firms, in the estimation sample. The frequency distribution of the unconditional mean is unimodal with a weekly mean return of $0.029 \%$. For the unconditional standard deviation, the median value is $5.25 \%$. The coefficient of skewness is predominantly negative with a median value of -0.12 . All the firms have a large coefficient of kurtosis with a median value of 10.34 . We calculate the Box-Pierce statistics up to the fourth order to test for autocorrelation in returns and we find mild autocorrelation for about one-third of the firms. However, the Box-Pierce test up to fourth order for autocorrelation in squared returns indicates strong dependence in second moments for all the firms in the SP500 index.

## 2 Table S.2: Estimation results for $f_{1}\left(J_{t} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1} ; \theta_{1}\right)$

In Table S.2, we report the cross-sectional frequency distributions of the estimates $\hat{\theta}_{1} \equiv\left(\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}, \hat{\delta}^{\prime}\right)^{\prime}$ for the duration model

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_{t} & =\left[\Psi_{N(t-1)}+\delta^{\prime} X_{t-1}\right]^{-1} \\
\Psi_{N(t)} & =\alpha D_{N(t)-1}+\beta \Psi_{N(t)-1} \\
\delta^{\prime} X_{t-1} & =\delta_{1}+\delta_{2} y_{t-1} \mathbf{1}\left(z_{t-1} \leq 0.5\right)+\delta_{3} y_{t-1} \mathbf{1}\left(z_{t-1}>0.5\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

for all the 466 firms in the estimation sample.

## 3 Table S.3: Estimation results for $f_{2}\left(y_{t} \mid J_{t}, \mathcal{F}_{t-1} ; \theta_{2}\right)$

In Table S.3, we report the estimation results corresponding to the model

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_{2}\left(y_{t} \mid J_{t}, \mathcal{F}_{t-1} ; \theta_{2}\right) & = \begin{cases}N\left(\mu_{1 t}, \sigma_{1 t}^{2}\right) & \text { if } J_{t}=1 \\
N\left(\mu_{0 t}, \sigma_{0 t}^{2}\right) & \text { if } J_{t}=0\end{cases} \\
\mu_{1 t} & \equiv E\left(y_{t} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}, J_{t}=1\right)=\nu_{1}+\gamma_{1} y_{t-1}+\eta_{1} z_{t-1}, \\
\mu_{0 t} & \equiv E\left(y_{t} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}, J_{t}=0\right)=\nu_{0}+\gamma_{0} y_{t-1}+\eta_{0} z_{t-1}, \\
\sigma_{1 t}^{2} & =\sigma_{0 t}^{2}=\sigma_{t}^{2}=E\left(\epsilon_{t}^{2} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}, J_{t}\right)=\omega+\rho \epsilon_{t-1}^{2}+\tau \sigma_{t-1}^{2}, \\
\epsilon_{t-1} & =\left(y_{t-1}-\mu_{1, t-1}\right) J_{t-1}+\left(y_{t-1}-\mu_{0, t-1}\right)\left(1-J_{t-1}\right) \\
\theta_{2} & =\left(\nu_{1}, \gamma_{1}, \eta_{1}, \nu_{0}, \gamma_{0}, \eta_{0}, \omega, \rho, \tau\right)^{\prime} .
\end{aligned}
$$

for the 466 firms. We report the cross-sectional frequency distributions of the parameters estimates in the conditional mean and conditional variance.

Table S. 1
Descriptive statistics of weekly returns of the SP500 firms
January 1, 1990-December 27, 2000
Cross-sectional frequency distribution of unconditional moments


| Series: MEAN |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 500 |  |
| Observations 500 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 0.029868 |
| Median | 0.017000 |
| Maximum | 0.463000 |
| Minimum | -0.877000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.114643 |
| Skewness | -1.332909 |
| Kurtosis | 13.23695 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 2331.285 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: STD |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 500 |  |
| Observations 500 |  |
| Mean | 5.524196 |
| Median | 5.256000 |
| Maximum | 19.14200 |
| Minimum | 2.020000 |
| Std. Dev. | 2.286806 |
| Skewness | 1.158602 |
| Kurtosis | 5.945845 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 292.6550 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |


| Series: SKEW |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1500 |  |
| Observations 500 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | -0.625946 |
| Median | -0.118000 |
| Maximum | 8.636000 |
| Minimum | -15.97200 |
| Std. Dev. | 1.636561 |
| Skewness | -3.109677 |
| Kurtosis | 28.00459 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 13831.45 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: KURT |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 500 |  |
| Observations 500 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 19.26952 |
| Median | 10.34500 |
| Maximum | 178.8320 |
| Minimum | -0.324000 |
| Std. Dev. | 21.46704 |
| Skewness | 3.972950 |
| Kurtosis | 24.23618 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 10710.68 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |

## Descriptive statistics of the SP500 firms

January 1, 1990-December 27, 2000

## Cross-sectional summary statistics of the unconditional jump:

$$
\bar{p}_{i}(h) \equiv \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{R} J_{i, t}(h)}{R}
$$

where $J_{i, t}(h) \equiv 1\left(\left|z_{i, t}-z_{i, t-1}\right| \geq h\right)$ for $h=0.25,0.50,0.75,0.90$ $\bar{p}_{i}(h) \equiv$ percentage number of jumps over a maximum of 573 weeks for firm $i$

| Cross-sectional <br> moments <br> (over 466 firms) | $h=0.25$ | $h=0.50$ | $h=0.75$ | $h=0.90$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mean | $56 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| Median | $\mathbf{5 6 \%}$ | $25 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ |
| Max. | $70 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Min. | $30 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |

Entry explanation: for instance, choose the number in bold "Median $=56 \%$ " (second column, third row). It means that 50\% of the SP500 firms have had a jump of at least 0.25 in the cross-sectional ranking of returns in $56 \%$ of the weeks between Jan. 11990 and Dec. 27, 2000 or alternatively, there is a jump of at least 0.25 every 1.8 weeks. The smaller the jump, the larger the summary statistic is.

Table S. 2
Cross-sectional frequency distribution of the estimates of the duration model when $J_{t}=1\left(\left|z_{t}-z_{t-1}\right| \geq 0.5\right)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_{t} & =\left[\Psi_{N(t-1)}+\delta^{\prime} X_{t-1}\right]^{-1} \\
\Psi_{N(t)} & =\alpha D_{N(t)-1}+\beta \Psi_{N(t)-1} \\
\delta^{\prime} X_{t-1} & =\delta_{1}+\delta_{2} y_{t-1} \mathbf{1}\left(z_{t-1} \leq 0.5\right)+\delta_{3} y_{t-1} \mathbf{1}\left(z_{t-1}>0.5\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



| Series: ALPHA |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 0.336601 |
| Median | 0.347000 |
| Maximum | 0.989000 |
| Minimum | 0.011000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.137334 |
| Skewness | 0.243171 |
| Kurtosis | 5.830162 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 160.1165 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: BETA |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Sab |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 0.124251 |
| Median | 0.074500 |
| Maximum | 0.989000 |
| Minimum | 0.010000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.165666 |
| Skewness | 2.853888 |
| Kurtosis | 12.80408 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 2498.901 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |

Table S. 2 (cont.)
Cross-sectional frequency distribution of the estimates of the duration model


| Series: DELTA1 |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 2.248946 |
| Median | 1.930000 |
| $90 \%$ Percentile | 4.012 |
| Maximum | 15.76100 |
| Minimum | -4.349000 |
| Std. Dev. | 1.867285 |
| Skewness | 2.342543 |
| Kurtosis | 15.06336 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 3251.802 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: DELTA2 |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 0.727378 |
| Median | 0.570500 |
| $90 \%$ percentile 1.671 |  |
| Maximum | 4.426000 |
| Minimum | -3.097000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.789339 |
| Skewness | 1.357703 |
| Kurtosis | 7.779848 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 586.7789 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: DELTA3 |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  | -0.774004 |
| Mean | -0.640500 |
| Median | 3.179000 |
| $10 \%$ Percentile | -1.83 |
| Maximum | -4.153000 |
| Minimum | 0.826253 |
| Std. Dev. | -0.755392 |
| Skewness | 5.999295 |
| Kurtosis | 218.9858 |
|  | 0.000000 |

Median Values of Parameter Estimates of $\theta_{1}$ in the ACH Model $f_{1}\left(J_{t} \mid \mathfrak{I}_{t-1} ; \theta_{1}\right)$

| Industry Sectors <br> in the SP500 index | $\%$ of <br> firms | $\hat{\alpha}+\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ | $\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}_{2}}$ | $\hat{\delta_{3}}$ | $\hat{p}$ | Unconditional <br> $\bar{p}$ |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Consumer Goods | 25.2 | 0.456 | 0.542 | -0.573 | 0.257 | 0.246 |
| Energy | 5.5 | 0.359 | 0.769 | -0.840 | 0.347 | 0.297 |
| Finance | 16.5 | 0.444 | 0.959 | -0.488 | 0.527 | 0.239 |
| Health Care | 11.2 | 0.387 | 0.501 | -0.672 | 0.326 | 0.295 |
| Industrials | 11.2 | 0.451 | 0.586 | -0.946 | 0.238 | 0.215 |
| Information Technology | 17.7 | 0.334 | 0.318 | -0.413 | 0.447 | 0.380 |
| Material | 6.4 | 0.437 | 0.587 | -0.690 | 0.290 | 0.248 |
| Utilities | 6.4 | 0.497 | 0.851 | -1.101 | 0.132 | 0.137 |
| All sectors | 100.0 | 0.422 | 0.571 | -0.641 | 0.267 | 0.253 |

Note: $\hat{p}_{t}$ is the conditional probability of jumping obtained from equation (10) for every firm in the sample; $\hat{p}$ is the median value of $\hat{p}_{t}$ calculated over firms and over time; and $\bar{p} \equiv \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{R} J_{t}}{R}$ is the unconditional probability of jumping for which we report the median values calculated over the cross-section of firms.

Table S. 3
Cross-sectional frequency distribution of the estimates of the nonlinear model for expected returns when $J_{t}=1\left(\left|z_{t}-z_{t-1}\right| \geq 0.5\right)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f_{2}\left(y_{t} \mid J_{t}, \mathfrak{I}_{t-1} ; \theta_{2}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
N\left(\mu_{1, t}, \sigma_{1, t}{ }^{2}\right) \quad \text { if } \quad J_{t}=1 \\
N\left(\mu_{o, t}, \sigma_{o, t}{ }^{2}\right) \quad \text { if } \quad J_{t}=0
\end{array}\right. \\
& \mu_{1, t}=v_{1}+\gamma_{1} y_{t-1}+\eta_{1} z_{t-1} \quad \mu_{0, t}=v_{0}+\gamma_{0} y_{t-1}+\eta_{0} z_{t-1} \\
& \sigma^{2}{ }_{t}=\omega+\rho \varepsilon^{2}{ }_{t-1}+\tau \sigma^{2}{ }_{t-1} \\
& \text { with } \varepsilon_{t-1}=\left(y_{t-1}-\mu_{1, t-1}\right) J_{t-1}+\left(y_{t-1}-\mu_{0, t-1}\right)\left(1-J_{t-1}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Conditional mean parameter estimates



| Series: GAMMA1 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Sample 1466 |  |
| Observations |  |
| Mean | -0.447371 |
| Median | -0.440000 |
| Maximum | 0.518000 |
| Minimum | -1.643000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.256279 |
| Skewness | -0.261153 |
| Kurtosis | 5.523249 |
| Jarque-Bera | 128.9187 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |



| Series: GAMMAO |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | 0.377494 |
| Median | 0.358000 |
| Maximum | 1.369000 |
| Minimum | -0.536000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.248578 |
| Skewness | 0.424047 |
| Kurtosis | 3.862003 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 28.39326 |
| Probability | 0.000001 |




| Series: ETA0 |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Sample 1 466 |  |
| Observations 466 |  |
|  |  |
| Mean | -0.076479 |
| Median | 0.029500 |
| Maximum | 1.334000 |
| Minimum | -1.930000 |
| Std. Dev. | 0.513634 |
| Skewness | -1.043064 |
| Kurtosis | 4.735894 |
|  |  |
| Jarque-Bera | 143.0088 |
| Probability | 0.000000 |

Median Values of Parameter Estimates of $\theta_{2}$ in the Non-linear Model

| Industry Sectors <br> in the SP500 index | \% of firms | $\hat{\gamma}_{1}$ | $\hat{\gamma}_{0}$ | $\hat{\eta}_{1}$ | $\hat{\eta}_{0}$ | $\hat{\rho}+\hat{\tau}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Consumer Goods | 25.2 | -0.445 | 0.345 | -0.375 | -0.010 | 0.909 |
| Energy | 5.5 | -0.591 | 0.384 | -0.252 | 0.022 | 0.940 |
| Finance | 16.5 | -0.422 | 0.347 | -0.369 | 0.058 | 0.972 |
| Health Care | 11.2 | -0.319 | 0.365 | -0.658 | 0.031 | 0.899 |
| Industrials | 11.2 | -0.415 | 0.338 | -0.358 | 0.056 | 0.885 |
| Information Technology | 17.7 | -0.419 | 0.480 | -0.422 | 0.015 | 0.920 |
| Material | 6.4 | -0.444 | 0.353 | -0.473 | -0.036 | 0.965 |
| Utilities | 6.4 | -0.575 | 0.136 | -0.069 | 0.208 | 0.909 |
| All sectors | 100.0 | -0.44 | 0.358 | -0.378 | 0.029 | 0.925 |

## 4 Technical Trading Rules

In addition to the three model based trading rules (VCR-Mixture Trading Rule, VCR Trading Rule, and Buy-and-Hold-the-Market Trading Rule), discussed in the paper, we also consider four classes of technical trading rules considered by Sullivan, Timmermann and White (1999): FilterRule, Moving-Average-Rule, Channel-Break-Out-Rule, and Support-and-Resistance-Rule. All of these four trading rules are based on the SP500 index and they can be considered as rules that exploit the momentum in returns. For each of the four technical trading rules, we consider four parameterizations as explained below.

Filter-Rule $(x)$ : If the weekly closing price of a particular security moves up at least $x$ per cent, buy and hold the security until its price moves down at least $x$ per cent from a subsequent high, at which time simultaneously sell and go short. The short position is maintained until the weekly closing price rises at least $x$ per cent above a subsequent low at which time one covers and buys. The neutral position is obtained by liquidating a long position when the price decreases $y$ percent from the previous high, and covering a short position when the price increases $y$ percent from the previous low. We apply one of the rules of Sullivan et al. (1999) to define subsequent high (low). A subsequent high (low) is the highest (lowest) closing price achieved while holding a particular long (short) position. We also allow for the holding of the asset for $c$ weeks ignoring any signals generated from the market. We consider $\{x: 0.05,0.10,0.20,0.50\}, y=0.5 x$, and $c=1$.

Moving-Average-Rule(l,s): This rule involves going long (short) when the short period moving average ( $s$ ) rises above (falls below) the long period moving average ( $l$ ). Its idea is to smooth out the series and locate the initiation of trend (when $s$ penetrates $l$ ). We consider four sets of local moving averages with $\{(l, s):(10,2),(20,2),(10,4),(20,4)\}$, a fixed percentage band filter to rule out false signals with the band $b=0.05$ for all cases, and $c=1$ as for the filter rule.

Channel-Break-Out-Rule $(n, x)$ : A channel is said to occur when the high over the previous $n$ time periods is within $x$ percent of the low over the previous $n$ time periods, not including the current price. The strategy is to buy when the closing price exceeds the channel, and to go short when the price moves below the channel. Long and short positions are held for a fixed number of days, $c=1$. A fixed percentage band, $b=0.05$, is applied to the channel as a filter. We consider the four sets of parameters $\{(n, x):(4,0.05),(10,0.05),(4,0.10),(10,0.10)\}$.

Support-and-Resistance-Rule(n): Buy when the closing price exceeds the maximum price over the previous $n$ time periods, and sell when the closing price is less than the minimum price over the previous $n$ time periods. We consider $\{n: 2,4,8,16\}$, and a fixed percentage band $b=0.05$.

## 5 Wang’s (2001) Monte Carlo Method

For the VCR-Mixture Trading Rule, where we are interested in the VaR of a portfolio of $K$ asset, each one following a mixture of conditional normal distributions, the computation of the VaR is not straightforward because a mixture of normals does not belong to the location-scale family. We implement the analytical Monte Carlo method of Wang (2001), which is described in some detail here.

We follow proposition 4.1 of Wang (2001) to calculate $\operatorname{Va} R_{t+1}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{\theta}_{t}\right)$ for a portfolio consisting of assets whose weekly returns is a conditionally mixed normal distribution. A brief exposition of the procedure follows.

Let $Y_{t}=\left(Y_{1 t}, \ldots, Y_{n t}\right)^{\prime}$ is a random vector of weekly return where $Y_{r t}(r=1, \ldots, n)$ are (conditionally) univariate mixed normal distribution with $k_{r}$ component (in our case $k_{r}=2$ for all $r$ ). Let the conditional variance covariance matrix of $Y_{t}$ be $\Sigma_{Y_{t}}$, and $\sigma_{i j t}\left(Y_{t}\right)$ the $i j^{\text {th }}$ element of that matrix. While we parametrically model the diagonal terms of $\Sigma_{Y_{t}}$, the off-diagonal elements are obtained by calculating time varying sample covariance (that is $\sigma_{i j t}\left(Y_{t}\right)=\frac{1}{t-2} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1}\left(Y_{i s}-\bar{Y}_{i}\right)\left(Y_{j s}-\bar{Y}_{j}\right)$, where $\left.\bar{Y}_{r}=\frac{1}{t-2} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} Y_{r s}\right)$. The conditional density of $Y_{r t}$ is

$$
f\left(y_{r t} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}\right)=\sum_{h=1}^{k_{i}} p_{r t_{h}} \frac{1}{2 \pi \sigma_{r t_{h}}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{y_{r t}-\mu_{r t_{h}}}{\sigma_{r t_{h}}}\right]^{2}\right)
$$

where $\mu_{r t_{h}}$ and $\sigma_{r t_{h}}$ represent the conditional mean and conditional variance of the $r^{t h}$ component of normal mixture and $p_{r t_{h}}$ is the probability associated with $r^{t h}$ component of the mixture (in our setting $p_{r t_{1}}=$ probability of sharp jump, and $p_{r t_{2}}=1-p_{r t_{1}}$ ). We are interested in the behavior of the random variable $D_{t}=n^{-1} \sum_{r=1}^{n} \omega_{r} Y_{r t}$, where $\omega_{r}$ is the weight attached to the $r^{t h}$ asset in the portfolio.

The conditional VaR is obtained from the following numerical function.

$$
\alpha=\operatorname{Pr}\left(D_{t} \leq \operatorname{Va}_{t+1}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{\theta}_{t}\right)\right)=\sum_{h_{1}=1}^{k_{1}} \ldots \sum_{h_{n}=1}^{k_{n}} p_{1_{h_{1}} \ldots p_{n_{h_{n}}}} \Phi\left(\frac{V a R_{t+1}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{\theta}_{t}\right)-\mu_{h_{1} \ldots h_{n} t}}{\sigma_{h_{1} \ldots h_{n} t}}\right)
$$

where $\Phi(\cdot)$ is the cdf of a standard normal distribution, $\mu_{h_{1} \ldots h_{n} t}=\sum_{r=1}^{n} \omega_{r} \mu_{r t_{h_{r}}}, \sigma_{h_{1} \ldots h_{n} t}=$ $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \sum_{s=1}^{n} \omega_{r} \omega_{s} \sigma_{r t_{h_{r}}} \sigma_{s t_{h_{s}}} \sigma_{r s t}\left(Z_{t}\right)$, where

$$
\sigma_{r s t}\left(Z_{t}\right)=\left(\frac{\sigma_{r s t}\left(Y_{t}\right)-\Sigma_{h=1}^{k_{r}} \Sigma_{l=1}^{k_{s}} p_{r t_{h}} p_{s t_{l}}\left(\mu_{r t_{h}}-\mu_{r t}\right)\left(\mu_{s t_{h}}-\mu_{s}\right)}{\Sigma_{h=1}^{k_{r}} \Sigma_{l=1}^{k_{s}} p_{r t_{h}} p_{s t_{l}} \sigma_{r t_{h}} \sigma_{s t_{l}}}\right)
$$

for $r \neq s$, and $\sigma_{r s t}\left(Z_{t}\right)=1$ for $r=s$, and $\mu_{r t}$ and $\mu_{s t}$ are the conditional mean of $Y_{r t}$ and $Y_{s t}$
respectively. Note that right hand side of above equation is a monotonic increasing function in $V a R_{t+1}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{\theta}_{t}\right)$ thus it can be calculated numerically.

## 6 Reality Check

Let $l$ be the number of competing trading rules $(k=1, \ldots, l)$ to compare with the benchmark rule (indexed as $k=0$ ). For each trading rule $k$, one-step predictions are to be made for $P$ periods from $R+1$ through $T$ using a rolling sample, as explained in the previous sections. Consider a generic loss function $L(Y, \theta)$ where $Y$ consists of variables in the information set. In our case, we have six forecast evaluation functions: $M T R, S R, M S R, V_{1}, V_{2}$, and $V_{3}$. As the first three forecast evaluation functions, $M T R, S R, M S R$, are to be maximized, while the last three forecast evaluation functions based on VaR, $V_{1}, V_{2}$, and $V_{3}$, are to be minimized, the generic loss function $L(Y, \theta)$ denotes one of the six loss functions, $-M T R,-S R,-M S R, V_{1}, V_{2}$, and $V_{3}$, so that the following discussion is based on minimization of the objective function $L(Y, \theta)$.

The best trading rule is the one that minimizes the expected loss. We test a hypothesis about an $l \times 1$ vector of moments, $E(\mathbf{f})$, where $\mathbf{f} \equiv \mathbf{f}(Y, \theta)$ is an $l \times 1$ vector with the $k^{\text {th }}$ element $f_{k}=L_{0}(Y, \theta)-L_{k}(Y, \theta), \theta \equiv \operatorname{plim} \hat{\theta}_{T}$, and $L_{0}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the loss under the benchmark rule, $L_{k}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the loss provided by the $k^{\text {th }}$ trading rule. A test for a hypothesis on $E(\mathbf{f})$ may be based on the $l \times 1$ statistic $\overline{\mathbf{f}} \equiv P^{-1} \sum_{t=R}^{T-1} \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{t+1}$, where $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{t+1} \equiv \mathbf{f}\left(Y_{t+1}, \hat{\theta}_{t}\right)$.

Our interest is to compare all the trading rules with a benchmark. An appropriate null hypothesis is that all the trading rules are no better than a benchmark, i.e., $\mathbb{H}_{0}: \max _{1 \leq k \leq l} E\left(f_{k}\right) \leq 0$. This is a multiple hypothesis, the intersection of the one-sided individual hypotheses $E\left(f_{k}\right) \leq 0, k=$ $1, \ldots, l$. The alternative is that $\mathbb{H}_{0}$ is false, that is, the best trading rule is superior to the benchmark. If the null hypothesis is rejected, there must be at least one trading rule for which $E\left(f_{k}\right)$ is positive. Suppose that $\sqrt{P}(\overline{\mathbf{f}}-E(\mathbf{f})) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, \Omega)$ as $P(T) \rightarrow \infty$ when $T \rightarrow \infty$, for $\Omega$ positive semi-definite. White's (2000) test statistic for $\mathbb{H}_{0}$ is formed as $\bar{V} \equiv \max _{1 \leq k \leq l} \sqrt{P} \bar{f}_{k}$, which converges in distribution to $\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} G_{k}$ under $\mathbb{H}_{0}$, where the limit random vector $G=\left(G_{1}, \ldots, G_{l}\right)^{\prime}$ is $N(0, \Omega)$. However, as the null limiting distribution of $\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} G_{k}$ is unknown, White (2000, Theorem 2.3) shows that the distribution of $\sqrt{P}\left(\overline{\mathbf{f}}^{*}-\overline{\mathbf{f}}\right)$ converges to that of $\sqrt{P}(\overline{\mathbf{f}}-E(\mathbf{f}))$, where $\overline{\mathbf{f}}^{*}$ is obtained from the stationary bootstrap of Politis and Romano (1994). By the continuous mapping theorem this result extends to the maximal element of the vector $\sqrt{P}\left(\overline{\mathbf{f}}^{*}-\overline{\mathbf{f}}\right)$ so that the empirical distribution of $\bar{V}^{*}=\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} \sqrt{P}\left(\bar{f}_{k}^{*}-\bar{f}_{k}\right)$ is used to compute the p-value of $\bar{V}$ (White, 2000, Corollary 2.4). This p-value is called the "Reality Check p-value".

The inclusion of $\bar{f}_{k}$ in $\bar{V}^{*}=\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} \sqrt{P}\left(\bar{f}_{k}^{*}-\bar{f}_{k}\right)$ guarantees that the statistic satisfies the null hypothesis $E\left(\bar{f}_{k}^{*}-\bar{f}_{k}\right)=0$ for all $k$. This setting makes the null hypothesis the least favorable to the alternative and consequently, it renders a very conservative test. When a highly misspecified model is introduced, the reality check p-value becomes very large and, depending on the variance of $\bar{f}_{k}$, it may remain large even after the inclusion of better models. Hence, the White's reality check p-value may be considered as an upper bound for the true p-value. In Hansen (2005) the statistic $\bar{V}^{*}=\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} \sqrt{P}\left(\bar{f}_{k}^{*}-\bar{f}_{k}\right)$ is modified as

$$
\bar{V}^{*}=\max _{1 \leq k \leq l} \sqrt{P}\left(\bar{f}_{k}^{*}-g\left(\bar{f}_{k}\right)\right)
$$

Different $g(\cdot)$ functions will produce different bootstrap distributions that are compatible with the null hypothesis. If $g\left(\bar{f}_{k}\right)=\max \left(\bar{f}_{k}, 0\right)$, the null hypothesis is the most favorable to the alternative, and the p-value associated with the test statistic under the null will be a lower bound for the true p-value. Hansen (2005) recommended setting $g(\cdot)$ as a function of the variance of $\bar{f}_{k}$, i.e.

$$
g\left(\bar{f}_{k}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{cl}
0 & \text { if } \bar{f}_{k} \leq-A_{k} \\
\bar{f}_{k} & \text { if } \bar{f}_{k}>-A_{k}
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $A_{k}=\frac{1}{4} P^{1 / 4} \sqrt{\operatorname{var}\left(\bar{f}_{k}\right)}$ with the variance estimated from the bootstrap resamples.

